(b) whether the ratio thereof has been the same in the case of Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as well;

(c) the contribution of the Tourism Industry in the total revenue of the country as well as in respect of the said State separately; and

(d) in case of a downfall in the revenue, what steps are being taken by Government to get out of this situation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The foreign tourist arrivals have declined from 15,60,647 to 12,59,742 during the last six months (September 2001 to February 2002) as compared to the corresponding period of previous year showing a decline of 19.3%.

(b) There has been a decline in the visits of tourists to the tune of 4.6%, 14.7% and 18.1% in the States of U.P., J and K.and Bihar respectively during the last four months of the year 2001. However, there has been a marginal increase of 0.5% in the State of Rajasthan during the same period.

(c) and (d) No estimate of the contribution of the tourism industry in the total revenue of the country is available.

National Library Policy

1763. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate a National Library Policy to give impetus to the growth of the libarary movement across the country;

(b) if so, whether he has made a suggestion that all Members of Parliament spend Rs.10 to Rs.15 lakh annually for setting up and improving the libraries in their constituencies; and

(c) if so, whether any concrete policy in this regard have been worked out?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):(a) to (c) No formal Committee has been set up. On January 5, 2002, a National Round Table was organised to discuss the

prevailing state of affairs in the National and Public Libraries and to consider ways and means of reforming, reorganising and modernising the Libraries in the country and also to infuse new life in the library movement. A few other groups were constituted as a result of the deliberations in the said National Meet to look into various aspects of the problem. No help was sought from the private entrepreneurs. However, it was decided to request the Members of Parliament to set apart Rs.15-20 lakh for Public Libraries in their constituencies out of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development fund (MPLAD) of Rs.2 crore.

Private participation in duty free shops at airports

1764. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) had invited proposals for private participation in the duty free business at the Indian airports;

(b) if so, the names of the airports where the duty free business is to be given to the private parties;

(c) the proposals received by the ITDC in response to its tenders;

(d) whether Government have examined these proposals and if so, details thereof; and

(e) how far the running of duty free shops by private parties would be more beneficial to Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ITDC had invited Technical bids through a global tender for logistics and retail support by associating leading International Duty Free Operators for its all Duty Free Shops divided in three regions *i.e.* Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

(c) No proposals were received in response to the tender.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.